

National Transportation Safety Board

Summary record of interviews with select personnel at CG Honolulu, Integrated Support Command:

February 14, 2001, PM

Cdr Lago, USPHS, Chief Medical Services, Sand Island, Honolulu

MSC Mathews, USCG

HS1 Ray, Corpsman aboard the CGC Walnut, docked (and stationed) at the ISC

DC1 Ackley, ISC OOD

Conducted by:

Robert Henry, NTSB, OMS

Cdr. Lago was completing his normal work day, around 4 pm, when he was alerted by the Group to proceed to Station and await arrival of survivors being brought in by the Coast Guard. Together with HSC Mathews, also assigned to the ISC medical facility and on duty at the time, they provided their EMS kit, a wheel chair and backboard and reported to the Station, located on ISC property. HS1 Ray reported to the Station from the CGC Walnut. Cdr Lago noted that Honolulu EMS was on scene with 2 ambulances when he arrived.

Cdr. Lago stated that while the Commanding Officer of the Group was directing the SAR operations, the senior Honolulu EMS was in charge of assessing the survivors as they were unloaded from the two CG rescue boats. Two individuals were immediately sent off to a hospital in one of the ambulances. ISC members supported the efforts of the EMS personnel but did not directly treat, with medical procedure, any of the survivors. The survivors were taken to the lounge of the Station's second floor and were checked for injuries. A number of survivors suffering from ingestion of oil/water and oil in their eyes, were rerouted back to a second ambulance and taken to a hospital for treatment. The remaining survivors were questioned by Coast Guard personnel, the vessel's, agent, EMS personnel, Red Cross and Japanese Council personnel.

All survivors, together with Japanese Council escorts, departed the ISC around 9:30 pm for a local hotel.

ISC medical personnel did not create any medical records. They stated they would have if they would have been directly involved in medical treatment .

DC1 Greg Ackley was the ISC OOD when the call came in (approx. 1430) from the Group to be prepared to accept survivors of a collision being transported in by CG rescue boats, to arrive at the Station. He called Group Operations about handling the media. The RHI arrived at the station around 1600 and the UTB shortly thereafter. Most of the survivors went to the Station lounge on the second floor.

DC1 Ackley has been station at a Loran Station on Hokkiado, Japan, his ex-spouse was Japanese, and he was fairly conversant in Japanese. He had an opportunity to interview the Master. The Master was very upset, but did tell DC1 Ackley that the vessel received three bumps and went down very fast, less than 10 minutes. He also stated that the missing Ehime Crewmembers were below decks when the collision occurred. Ackley heard another crewmember say the vessel sank within 6 minutes. He recalls the survivors were allowed to shower, given new clothing from the "slop chest", and given food. The were allowed to call home to relatives.

DC1Ackley stated that the Japanese survivors did not want to be interviewed by the press and left for a hotel around 2200 in several vans provided by the Japanese Council General.